

American River Flood Control News

Working to reduce Sacramento's flood threat

The record storms of 1986 and 1997 showed that Sacramento is a community at risk of flooding. Since the 1986 storm, the Army Corps of Engineers has worked with federal, state, and local flood control agencies and elected officials to reduce Sacramento's risk of flooding.

We've put together this timeline to show what's been done to lower that flood risk, what's planned, and explain the costs.

Timeline

American River (Common Features), CA Project

- 1986 Storm of record for Sacramento (recognized significant flood risk and initiated action to reduce risk)**
- 1996 Report sent to Congress**
Congress authorizes portion of the recommended work:
Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1996
Congress directs Corps to construct features common to all plans as an interim project to quickly increase flood protection by authorizing:
- 24 miles of slurry walls along American River
 - 12 miles of levee work along Sacramento River
 - Upstream gages and flood warning system installation
 - \$56.9M cost (based on 15-40 feet deep slurry walls, no cutoff walls at bridges and deep utility crossings)
- 1997 Near storm of record for Sacramento Valley caused levee damage and failures which changed baseline conditions**
- Information from this event resulted in a better understanding of the levees and foundations
 - Changes in design resulted
 - Slurry walls must now be 60-80 feet deep
 - Bridges & utility crossings must now have cutoff walls
- 1999 Congress authorizes work: WRDA 1999 (no detailed designs)**
Congress authorizes new additional levee work:
- 3 miles of American River levee work
 - 10 miles of Natomas Cross Canal levee work
 - \$91.9M new authorized cost

2001 Completed work

- 19 miles of slurry wall levee work
- Bridge & utility crossing work cannot use conventional slurry wall construction method and must use jet grout construction method which is very expensive
- Detailed designs of new work continues for levees in the Natomas Basin

2002 Request to Congress to authorize added funds to cover:

- New bridge & utility crossing work added to the project (\$55M)
- Deeper slurry walls required (\$25M)
- Additional expenses for planning, engineering, design, real estate and environmental project requirements (\$22M)
- Changes in price level (\$11M)
- \$205M recommended new project cost

2004+ Submit report to Congress (Summer 2004)

- Additional new work in Natomas Basin
- \$65M to \$165M cost estimate